

new peoples have come to also rely on New Mexico's scarce supply of water, new approaches to its management have become necessary. Recent reports from the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Government Accounting Office have identified a state of disrepair among the Pueblo irrigation networks, and a gap in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' capacity to maintain these systems. The Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act seeks to address this issue of fundamental importance to New Mexico tribes.

A 2000 report by the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs entitled Pueblo Irrigation Facilities Rehabilitation Report determined that a significant percentage of Pueblo irrigation works are in disrepair. Additionally, a recent GAO Report (GAO-06-314) on Bureau of Indian Affairs' irrigation program also made clear that the agency has not had the financial and technical resources to maintain irrigation systems on Indian land. The lack of financial and technical resources within the Bureau of Indian Affairs is further compounded by the Department of the Interior's view that maintenance of Indian irrigation systems is not an obligation pursuant to its trust responsibility. The result is continued degradation of agricultural systems in Indian Country and no identifiable program to address irrigation infrastructure problems on Pueblo land.

Because a significant percentage of Pueblo irrigation works are in disrepair, and because of the Pueblos' inability to use land that was historically irrigated, there is an inefficient use of the limited water supplies available to the Pueblos. In the arid west, water inefficiencies impact everyone negatively. If the Pueblos lose this precious resource due to inefficiencies, it is a loss for the surrounding communities as well, and to New Mexico as a whole.

The Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act will direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to work with the 18 Pueblos in the Rio Grande basin to first assess Pueblo irrigation infrastructure, and then initiate projects to rehabilitate and repair such infrastructure on Pueblo lands. It will be left to the individual Pueblo Councils to determine their interest in partnering with the Department of Interior to carry out a study of irrigation infrastructure and to carry out rehabilitation projects.

This legislation requires the Bureau of Reclamation to work with the Pueblos, rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs, because of the lack of relevant resources within the BIA, as well as its historical lack of attention to this issue. The Bureau of Reclamation has a technical expertise in water infrastructure that will be invaluable to the Pueblos. Moreover, the activity authorized in the bill is consistent with Reclamation's Water 2025 program. While the expertise at the Bureau of Reclamation is key to filling the technical gap in irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation, it is recognized that there are limited resources available within Reclamation, and that every initiative functions better when the flexibility of collaboration and cost sharing is a possibility. As such, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers to identify opportunities to use the authorities of those agencies to collaborate on projects satisfactory to all involved.

As America moves into an era of climate change and resource scarcity, it is essential that areas such as the arid west mobilize creative new initiatives to address the new water resources needs. The Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act is one piece of the water puzzle that impacts New Mexico, and our nation as a whole.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 8, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 302. Had I voted I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING CHIEF STANDING BEAR ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1043, which honors the life and legacy of Chief Standing Bear on the 100th anniversary of his death.

Chief Standing Bear is an important figure in our Nation's civil rights movement. He was born in what is now Nebraska, where his tribe, the Ponca, was forced to leave by a Federal treaty in 1878. The young chief led his tribe to the Indian Territory of Oklahoma, an inhospitable region that killed many of his members, including his own son. Determined to bury his son on Ponca soil, Chief Standing Bear returned to Nebraska, where he was arrested by Federal authorities.

His case went to Federal court in 1879, where prosecutors argued that Native Americans were not considered people under the Constitution. Impressed with Chief Standing Bear's impassioned defense, the judge ruled he was indeed a citizen with full Constitutional rights. Thanks to this significant legal precedent, the Ponca were allowed to return home and better lands were given to Native American tribes.

Chief Standing Bear's story won the attention and sympathy of many throughout the United States. At a time when tribal rights were ignored and abused, Chief Standing Bear stood up for justice.

On this 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear's death, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor this man of courage and integrity and his important role in our Nation's continuing struggle for justice and equality.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS IN ANNISTON, ALABAMA

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the dedicated workforce of the Center for Domestic Preparedness, CDP, in Anniston, Alabama, who on June 3 will celebrate the facility's 10th anniversary.

On June 1, 1998, the Center opened its doors to America's first responders. Over the past 10 years, the more than 1,000 men and women of the CDP have offered cutting-edge training to first responders from all 50 States and every U.S. territory. Through the years, the Center's unique training capabilities have focused on mission-critical emergency management skills and training using live hazardous materials. CDP's hands-on approach builds skills and confidence that can save American lives in a homeland security crisis.

Since its inception, the Center has expanded its facilities and mission to better meet the needs of first responders. The addition of the Noble Training Facility, NTF, in 2007 gave CDP the only medical facility in the United States dedicated to training health care professionals in disaster response. NTF adds new training resources and two prototype mass casualty decontamination lanes to the Center's training arsenal. Today the CDP serves an essential role within the Department of Homeland Security for helping provide unique training that ultimately helps keep our communities safe.

I am pleased to recognize the staff of the Center for Domestic Preparedness today for reaching this important milestone, and look forward to witnessing its next decade of growth and service to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE ST. PAUL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Science Bowl team at St. Paul Central High School for their outstanding achievements at the State and national level. The students and coaches of Central High School deserve our congratulations.

In February, the team won its first-ever State championship. Coach Randy Knoche and his students, Daniel Monahan, Elwood McCreary, Jennifer Wei, Jon Schellengberg and Martin Camacho, are to be commended for their dedication and competitive spirit. As Minnesota State champions, the team qualified for the National Science Bowl in Washington, DC.

The 4-day competition that ended on May 5 was a benefit for the students and our community. Renewing student interest in science,

math and engineering is vital to our global competitiveness and has been a priority for the 110th Congress. Our Nation's status as a global leader in innovation and technology depends on young people getting involved in programs such as the National Science Bowl, and the team at St. Paul Central is leading the way.

In an impressive display of camaraderie and commitment, two teammates made a difficult sacrifice to attend the national tournament. The students are enrolled in Central's highly demanding International Baccalaureate program, which held its annual English exam during the National Science Bowl. This exam is a necessary step toward receiving a full B diploma—an impressive achievement that often results in college course credits—but the students decided to take the exam when it is next offered, in 2009, so that their team could compete at nationals. These young people represent teamwork at its finest.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the students, teachers and staff of St. Paul Central High School and the entire St. Paul Public Schools District, please join me in honoring the St. Paul Central High School Science Bowl Team.

**HONORING GENERAL RICHARD H. THOMPSON**

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a true American patriot who has devoted his entire adult life to the service of his country. Today, the Army is proud to dedicate the Automation Training Facility of the Army Quartermaster Center and School in the name of retired GEN Richard H. Thompson at Fort Lee, Virginia. General Thompson's career reflects 43 years of outstanding service to the Army and to the Nation. General Thompson is distinct in the quartermaster career field, as he is the only soldier in that career field to ascend from the rank of Private all the way to the rank of a full, four-star General.

Upon completion of the Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course at Fort Lee in 1960, General Thompson served overseas before returning to the United States in 1961. He served multiple posts as a staff officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics for the Army, eventually reaching the position of Deputy Chief. In 1984, he was promoted to General and given command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, a post he held until his retirement in 1987.

General Thompson is highly regarded as a pioneer in Army logistics. During the 1980s he helped modernize the Army's logistical operations. General Thompson is also credited with updating and improving the Army's logistics capabilities for the military's post-cold-war operations. This included his leadership in the expansion of newer automated equipment and techniques, and in the integration of those components throughout the joint services. He was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame in 1991.

As the representative of the citizens of Virginia's 4th District—and home to Fort Lee—it gives me great pride to honor and thank General Thompson for his dedicated service to the

United States of America. Please join me in congratulating him and Fort Lee on the dedication of the Automation Training Facility of the Army Quartermaster Center and School in his name.

**TRIBUTE TO RONALD REECE, SR.**

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Illustrious Potentate of the Oman Temple No. 72, Ronald Reece, Sr. Ronald was feted at the 52nd Annual Potentate Ball held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, on Saturday, May 10.

Ronald Reece, Sr., moved to Saginaw, Michigan, from Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1961. He attended Arthur Hill Technical High School where he was captain of the track and basketball teams. He graduated from Saginaw High School in 1972 and started working at Saginaw Steering Gear in September of that year. He retired from his inspector position in July 1996.

Active in the community, Ronald is a motivational speaker for youth working with churches and organizations. He created the "Dick and Jane Saving System" and was recognized as an African-American Man of Distinction in 1997 for his work helping minorities achieve a brighter future. In 1998, Ronald and his wife, Barbara, received the Community Leadership Award for their work at the First Ward Community Center. They have received many awards for their involvement with various organizations in Saginaw and Buena Vista and they are contributors to the Buena Vista High Scholarship Commission. Ronald and Barbara have been married for 35 years and have five sons: Ronald Jr., Shannon (deceased), Kieston, London, and Ju'Neil.

The Oman Temple No. 72—A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Incorporated, has benefited over the years from Ronald's leadership and dedication. Under the Prince Hall affiliation, Ronald has held the positions of Worshipful Master of H. York Harrison Lodge #32 in Saginaw; Past 2nd Lieutenant of Saginaw Valley Consistory #71, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; and Past Thrice Potent Master—Flint Lodge of Perfection #71. He currently serves as Thrice Illustrious Master—Omega Council #30, Royal and Select Masters; Captain General—Tri City Commandery #19, Knights Templar; and Captain—Flint Chapter #17, Holy Royal Arch Masters.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to applaud the life and work of Ronald Reece, Sr. May he continue to serve the community for many, many years to come.

**COMMENTS TO INTERACTION ANNUAL FORUM**

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 12, 2008*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to speak at InterAction's Annual Forum in the

Washington area regarding the importance of modernizing U.S. foreign assistance. With 165 member organizations, InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations focused on the world's poor and vulnerable people. I would like to enter my remarks from this event into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

**COMMENTS TO INTERACTION ANNUAL FORUM**

Thank you for the invitation to be here today. I'd like to thank InterAction's President, Sam Worthington, along with Todd Shelton and Evan Elliot for being great partners and extraordinary advocates for your organizations and people in need around the world.

Like all of you, I strongly believe foreign assistance and development are part of the essential work of the U.S. Government and essential to our country's role as a super power.

I support a back-to-basics approach to development. For me, investments in child and maternal health, clean water, basic education, family planning, agriculture and food security are the foundation of successful long-term development. This is the work your organizations do everyday.

In my travels to places like Tanzania, Malawi, Afghanistan and Peru I have seen both real human need and real successes from U.S. development investments. And it was in these travels that I met you—smart, committed, passionate people giving hope and opportunity to people who often have very little.

Today, I want to talk with you about our present challenge—doing development better. It's time to modernize and strengthen U.S. foreign assistance to meet the challenges and realities of the 21st century. I know modernizing foreign assistance is a priority for InterAction and your efforts to inform and educate Congress are important and appreciated.

The 9/11 Commission predicted future threats to America would be transnational rather than international. We didn't have to wait long. A new generation of moral and national security challenges have already reshaped our foreign policy, including: terrorism, ethnic conflicts, food security, global health threats, climate change . . . the list goes on.

Confronting this new generation of challenges demands that we make foreign assistance especially development—central to our foreign policy.

The Pentagon appears to be convinced. Last November, Secretary of Defense Gates said, 'One of the most important lessons from our experience in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere has been the decisive role reconstruction, development, and governance plays in any meaningful, long-term success.'

Our top security officials know that sandals on the ground today can prevent boots on the ground tomorrow. Development is the right thing to do and it's a smart investment.

The direct link between development and security is now national policy. President Bush's 2006 National Security Strategy states, 'Development reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous and peaceful societies.'

Foreign assistance is more important to America's national security and foreign policy than ever before. But our Cold-War mechanisms aren't up to the challenge.

The structure of U.S. foreign assistance needs modernization. Today, more than 20 executive branch agencies have responsibility for administering foreign assistance programs. This means duplication, confusion